
U.S. Department of Justice



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Ecstasy Dealer Sentenced to Life

(Alexandria, VA) James Arness Erby, of Prince Georges County, Maryland, was sentenced today to life in prison by United States District Judge Claude M. Hilton, Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced. Erby had been convicted on January 17, 2006, by a jury in the Eastern District of Virginia, on two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and for conspiracy to distribute ecstasy and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Erby, a convicted felon, shot and killed James Ridley outside of a Subway restaurant in Springfield, Virginia, on December 30, 2004. He used the same firearm that he had used to shoot another individual on October 15, 2004, in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. The defendant was also armed when he made regular trips to Spotsylvania to sell ecstasy.

Judge Hilton sentenced Erby to 10 years imprisonment on the two counts charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition; 20 years imprisonment on the drug conspiracy charge; and life imprisonment for carrying a firearm during the drug conspiracy.

The case was investigated by the Fairfax County Police Department, Spotsylvania County Sheriff Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration with assistance from the Prince Georges County Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jonathan Fahey and James Trump.

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